

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 96-386-C - ORDER NO. 97-233  
MARCH 21, 1997

IN RE: Mamie L. Jackson, ) ORDER  
Complainant, )  
vs. )  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion to Dismiss the Complaint of Mamie L. Jackson (Mrs. Jackson), filed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth), and for consideration of a similar complaint filed against BellSouth by Dana Sumter (Ms. Sumter).

The Motion to Dismiss was based on the fact that Mrs. Jackson failed to pre-file testimony and exhibits on or before February 26, 1997 as required by our Order No. 97-66. Mrs. Jackson states that she was waiting for BellSouth to respond to her Motion to Produce before she was able to file her testimony and exhibits. Further, Mrs. Jackson asks for a continuance of the hearing in this matter, and all attendant dates.

We deny the Motion to Dismiss. We believe that Mrs. Jackson is entitled to any reasonably requested material from BellSouth before she files testimony and exhibits with the Commission. Further, we grant the request for a continuance. The hearing is hereby set for **May 1, 1997 at 2:30 P.M.** Accordingly, Mrs. Jackson shall pre-file with the Commission her testimony and exhibits on or before **April 3, 1997.** BellSouth shall pre-file its testimony and exhibits on or before **April 17, 1997.** Each party shall serve the other party as required by Commission regulations.

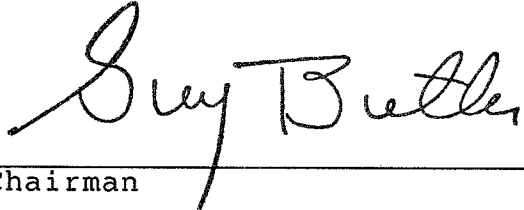
We also note that Dana Sumter has filed a similar complaint against BellSouth. We hereby grant her a hearing and order that her complaint will be combined with Mrs. Jackson's complaint for hearing purposes. Therefore, the same dates as described above apply for Ms. Sumter's hearing and pre-filing dates.

The remaining issue is the request of Dana Sumter that Mrs. Jackson be allowed to negotiate Ms. Sumter's complaint on her behalf. Whereas the Commission takes no position with regard to the request to have Mrs. Jackson "negotiate" Ms. Sumter's complaint, we do wish to point out that Mrs. Jackson may not appear on Ms. Sumter's behalf at the hearing. Under Commission Regulation 103-804 (S)(1)(a) and (b), Ms. Sumter may appear on her own behalf at the hearing, but any representation must be by an attorney.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until  
further Order of the Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)